UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1996/558
16 July 1996
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: RUSSIAN

LETTER DATED 16 JULY 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TAJIKISTAN TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan, issued on 16 July 1996.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Rashid ALIMOV
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

[Original: Russian]

Statement by the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan

The Government of the Republic of Tajikistan attaches great importance to the inter-Tajik talks being held in Ashkhabad under United Nations auspices and expresses its conviction that these talks will be as successful as anticipated.

Noting that the armed resistance in the Pamir region has been weakening, and convinced that it is useless to rely on a settlement of the conflict by force, it reaffirms its willingness to take constructive steps in accordance with the spirit of the Ashkhabad talks.

At the same time, the Government is seriously concerned at the military preparations being undertaken by the armed wing of the opposition with a view to reinforcing the small groups operating within the country.

According to reliable sources, fresh Tajik opposition troops in the territory of the Islamic State of Afghanistan have recently been transferred from the interior of that country towards the frontier regions near the Republic of Tajikistan. Particularly intense troop movements are reported in the direction of Badakhshan. In this regard, the fact that regular units of the Ministry of Defence of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, obeying government authorities, including units from the twenty-ninth infantry division and from military transport aviation, are directly implicated in these troop movements gives rise to particular concern.

The Government of the Republic of Tajikistan views the participation of units from the Ministry of Defence of that country in the deployment of reinforcements along the Tajik-Afghan border as an expression of hostility and an act which runs counter to agreements concluded between the two countries, to good relations between neighbouring States and to the precepts of international law.

The Government wishes to express its perplexity with regard to the position taken by the authorities of the Islamic State of Afghanistan in this increasingly tense situation on the border between the two countries, holding it to be incompatible with the observer status granted to the Islamic State of Afghanistan in the inter-Tajik talks.

In the present circumstances, the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan has no option but to close from this day forward all border points used for the purposes of trade with the Islamic State of Afghanistan and to review its relations with countries which, to differing degrees, offer armed opposition groups assistance, training and financial support. It reserves the right to take preventative measures, including the application of pressure using all the forces and means at its disposal, to oppose any escalation of the violence and to safeguard its own security.

Reaffirming its commitment to the utilization of peaceful means for the settlement of disputes with the opposition, the Government of the Republic of Tajikistan expressed the hope that the opposition will allow its actions to be guided by reason, in the interests of preserving the Tajik State and allowing peace and stability to reign on Tajik territory.

Dushanbe, 16 July 1996